

Speaking of tough bears, said the sheriff, you ought to have seen the one that Joe Atkinson and me had the little circus with on the head waters of Bright Brook about ten years ago. Joe and me was lumbering over on a tract of land that belonged to some fellow over in Monroe county. Jake Klienhaus had got all the bark off the tract, and we were finishing up the lumber. We'd seen signs of a bear, and an old bark-peeler told us there was a big one that kept in the swamp down the creek a ways. Every hunter that had been in the woods for six months, he said, had put a ball in the bear, and the old cuss had carried off half a dozen traps and got rid of them in some way. One Saturday Joe and me made up our minds to take a day off and try and capture this tough old animal. We came on the bear in less than an hour after we started out. He came out of the swamp as if some one was urging him with a three-time fork, and made for the top of a ridge about a hundred feet away. Joe let him have his rifle-barrel and then his buckshot. But the bear kept right on. I got both my barrels in on him, but the old fellow never paid any attention to us till he got to the ridge. The ridge wasn't more then twenty feet high, and it ran up to quite a narrow top. When the bear got up there he stopped, turned with his face toward us, raised up on his haunches, and opened his mouth blamed near a foot wide. He was in plain, open sight, only 100 feet away, and we just thought we had him foul

Now, of course, all bears ain't as tough as this bear was, but when the stones and dirt and saplings got through falling, there we saw old Bruin perched on a big branch of the chestnut, looking a little surprised, to be sure, but gazing down at us with actually a smile on his face, as if he rather enjoyed the novelty of the little experience he had just passed through. That was all the change there seemed to be in the old cuss' appearance. Joe looked at me, and I looked at Joe. Then we both looked at the bear, and then at the hole in the ground. Neither of us said a word for ten minutes. Then I said: "Let's go home, Joe. There's a thunder shower coming up, anyway, and we don't want to be out in it."

the lightning bounced off it like a rubber ball, and caromed on a big oak tree off to the right, tearing it into million pieces. The bear was stunned considerably by the lightning, and before it came to Joe got his work in with the ax and finished him. We dragged the carcass into camp. It weighed 417½ pounds, and we sold it for 10 cents a pound to a boarding-house keeper from Pocono. Three days afterward he came back and demanded 80 cents. He had taken eight pounds of lead out of different parts of that bear, and of course we deducted it from the bill.—*New York Sun.*

WASHINGTON, November 28.—The annual report of the directors of the United States mint for the year ending June 30, 1881, has been submitted to the secretary of the treasury. It contains, in addition to the customary detailed statement of the operation of mints and assay office, much valuable information regarding the production of the precious metals in the United States and foreign countries, and a comparison of metallic and paper circulation for a series of fifty-six years. The gold and silver received and operated upon by all mints and assay officers, exceeding by more than \$50,000,000 the receipts of any previous year, amounted to, in round numbers, \$225,000,000, of which \$193,000,000 was gold and \$33,000,000 silver. This large increase, director Burchard says, was due to the continued influx of gold from abroad, over \$95,000,000 deposited being from that source alone. The coinage facilities of the mint house have been tested to the fullest extent in converting this bullion into coin. The gold coinage of the year amounted to \$79,000,000, and that of silver to \$40,000,000, about \$28,000,000 of which was standard silver dollars. During the year \$7,706,924 were distributed. The total coinage of silver dollars since the passage of the act for their coinage up to November 1, was \$100,672,705, of which \$94,000,000 are in active circulation, \$59,000,000 held by the treasury for paying outstanding silver certificates, and about \$8,000,000 held by the treasury for ordinary disbursements. From data received at the mint the bureau director estimates the production of the United States during the last fiscal year to have been of gold dollars \$36,500,000, and of silver \$4,210,000, a total of \$40,710,000. Inquiries inaugurated regarding the annual consumption of gold and silver in the arts and manufactures show a consumption by manufacturers of jewelry and other articles, amounting to \$10,000,000 in gold, and nearly \$3,500,000 in silver during the year. The director estimated on June 30 last the gold coin circulation in the United States amounted to \$440,000,000 and silver \$171,500,000.

From data received, the director estimates the world's production of gold for the calendar year, 1881, at \$107,000,000, and of silver at \$87,500,000. The consumption of the world in ornaments, manufactures and arts for the same period is estimated \$75,000,000 of gold and \$35,000,000 of silver. The estimated circulation of the principal countries of the world is placed at \$322,000,000; full legal tender silver \$2,115,000,000; limited tender silver \$123,000,000. Total—Specie, \$5,759,000,000; paper, \$3,644,000,000.

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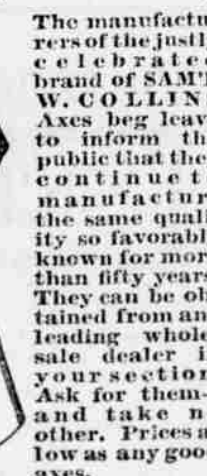
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